

REMARKS

*1. Status of the claims*

Of pending claims 1, 4, 6-12 and 16-18, claims 1, 4, 17 and 18 were indicated as allowable. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication. Claims 6-12, and 16 have been canceled above without prejudice for subsequent prosecution in a continuing application. No acquiescence to any rejection of record for these claims is made. To the contrary, the selection of only the indicated allowable claims is made for business considerations and because the allowable claims are sufficient to encompass commercially contemplated embodiments of the invention.

*2. Domestic Priority as Claimed by the Applicant*

On 25 April 2002 a Request For a Corrected Filing Receipt was requested. In the Office Action mailed 30 January 2003 the Examiner stated "the request for a Corrected filing receipt... is acknowledged. Based on said submissions, Applicant's claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 is deemed perfected". To date, we have not received a Corrected Filing Receipt from the USPTO, we would like to confirm that no further requests for correction are necessary at this time, and that the current domestic priority reflects the changes from the 25 April 2002 Request.

Please note that this application is a continuation of US Patent 5,985,284, and a terminal disclaimer was filed in July 2001.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen B. Dow  
Reg. No. 29,684

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP  
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor  
San Francisco, California 94111-3834  
Tel: (858) 350-6108  
Fax: (650) 326-2422